

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2125

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 0665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, SZ

SUBJECT: ANGOLA

1. WHEN I PAID MY COURTESY CALL ON JURG ISELIN, CHIEF OF THE SECOND POLITICAL DIVISION, HE TOLD ME THE SWISS GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF WHEN AND HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE LUANDA REGIME. ISELIN POINTED OUT THAT SWITZERLAND NORMALLY RECOGNIZES AS SOON AS IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS A GOVERNMENT SUBSTANTIALLY IN CONTROL OF A TERRITORY AND PEOPLE AND LIKELY TO REMAIN SO. I ANSWERED THAT IT WOULD SEEM TO ME PREMATURE TO SAY THESE CONDITIONS PRESENTLY APPLY. ISELIN COUNTERED THAT WE MIGHT ANTICIPATE THEM FAIRLY SOON. I SAID I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, BUT I WOULD THINK THAT WASHINGTON'S VIEW WOULD BE THAT RECOGNITION NOW WOULD BE HASTY.

2. ISELIN ASSURED ME THAT SWITZERLAND WOULD NOT BE AMONG THE FIRST IN EUROPE TO RECOGNIZE LUANDA AND WOULD IN FACT TRY TO BE AMONG THE "MIDDLE STATES". HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE KNOWN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS DISCUSSED THE ISSUE. WHEN THE EC NINE RECOGNIZE LUANDA, SWITZERLAND WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT NOT TO FOLLOW SUIT. ALTHOUGH THE FEDERAL COUNCIL HAS CONSIDERED THE MATTER AND HAS GIVEN ITS AUTHORIZATION TO RECOGNIZE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, ISELIN BELIEVES
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THAT THE QUESTION WILL BE PUT TO THE FEDERAL COUNCIL

AGAIN BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISION IS TAKEN.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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